



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1963.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Paul Martin, with the concurrence of the Minister of Fisheries, the Honourable H.J. Robichaud, announced today that the Canadian Government has accepted two recommendations of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission which would provide that Japan no longer be required to abstain from fishing for halibut in the Eastern Bering Sea and for herring west of the Queen Charlotte Islands. These recommendations have already been approved by the governments of the United States and Japan. The Canadian Government has also approved conservation measures recommended by the Commission with respect to halibut fishing by Canadian, United States and Japanese fishermen in the Eastern Bering Sea.

The Commission's recommendations were made pursuant to the provisions of the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention signed by Canada, Japan and the United States in 1952. Under the original terms of the Convention, Japan agreed voluntarily to abstain from fishing, in the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea, for stocks of salmon, halibut and herring of North American origin provided that these stocks were being exploited to the full and were under conservation regulations based on continuing scientific research.

As a result of an exhaustive study of the scientific evidence, the Commission determined, at its annual meeting in Seattle in 1962, that the stock of halibut in the Eastern

Bering Sea and the stock of herring off the west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands no longer met the qualifications for continued abstention. It accordingly recommended to the three governments concerned that these stocks of fish be removed from the abstention annex of the 1952 Convention. All stocks of salmon of North American origin and halibut in the North Pacific Ocean, exclusive of Bering Sea, as well as herring off the rest of the coast of British Columbia, continue to be subject to abstention.

The Convention may be terminated by any one of the three signatory countries after June 12, 1963, on twelve months' notice. Japan has requested a review of the Convention and arrangements are being made for a tripartite meeting in Washington in June to consider the continuation or possible modification of the Convention. The Government has decided to appoint an advisory committee of representatives of recognized fishing associations on the West Coast for consultation in connection with these negotiations and with the work of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.